

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2003-273-E - ORDER NO. 2006-148

MARCH 3, 2006

IN RE: Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.,	)	ORDER APPOINTING
	)	HEARING OFFICER
Complainant,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Commission's Motion to appoint Mr. Randall Dong, Esquire, to serve as a hearing officer in the instant docket regarding the complaint of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. against BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2005). The Motion is granted.

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and

other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.


We find that Mr. Randall Dong meets this qualification, and we therefore grant the Motion appointing him as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Dong to rule on any procedural matters in the case up to the time of the hearing. Additionally, if Mr. Dong, as hearing officer, deems it necessary to hold oral arguments in this matter, such oral arguments shall be held before him on March 15, 2006, instead of before the Commission, as was previously determined.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
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Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)